

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 30, 2005. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 - 8 are pending in the application and have been rejected. Reexamination is respectfully requested.

These remarks follow the order of the outstanding Office Action beginning at page 2 thereof.

Drawings

In response to the objection to the drawings, application has deleted "angle ring" from the claims.

Applicant appreciates the withdrawing of the objections related to "sheath" and "metal frame".

Claim Objections

Claim 4 has been amended to change the word "patent" "patient" as noted by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 (paragraph one)

Applicant appreciates the indication that the objections to "processor device housing ground processor device" have been successfully amended to overcome issues raised.

With respect to "angle ring", this term has been deleted from the claims as indicated above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Applicant in this amendment has now defined over the reference of record (Tsuji) and the capacitor C2 which was relied upon in the previous Office Action. Applicant now specifies a surge absorber provided between the sheath metal member of the scope and the processor device. In '197, capacitors C1 and C2 are arranged to the camera control unit (4) (processor device). The surge absorber in Applicant's claimed invention is arranged to the scope. In Applicant's invention even when static electricity is from the outside of the scope by arranging a surge absorber to the scope side, it becomes possible to pass static electricity to ground so that the electronic circuitry in the scope can be protected from static electricity.


On the other hand, in '197 electro-optical isolators shown in Figures 3 and 4 are between the control system (39), part of circuit ((35) and the 4CCU device - bottom of each Figure 3a, 3b). Therefore, the ground of the secondary circuit (35) does not touch or in any way connect to the earth ground to which 4CCU (Figure 1) is connected. The electro-optical isolators isolate and do not provide a surge absorber protector as Applicant claims. Photocoupler (50) (Figs. 3a, 3b) isolates system controller 39 (Figs. 31, 3b, 2) from ground so (86) (Fig. 8) is isolated from ground. (86) is not chassis ground 4CCU, but is ground of (35), see Figure 2 and column 8, lines 25 - 40.

In Applicant's invention, Applicant uses a surge absorber

which is very different from a capacitor. In the case of a capacitor, when frequency becomes high, impedance will be low and an alternating current component will flow. On the other hand, in the case of a surge absorber, impedance becomes low above a certain surge voltage and does not depend at all upon frequency. Moreover, the absorption of surge voltages in the high frequency is small in the case of the surge absorber of Applicant's claimed invention. Normally, static electricity is not of a high frequency which is required for current to flow through capacitors.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action in accordance thereof is requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed in this current condition, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems by Interview or Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


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